

Twenty-Eighth Annual Report

Maryland State Board
of
Motion Picture Censors



1943-1944

Offices
848 NORTH HOWARD STREET
Baltimore -1, Maryland

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

**MARYLAND STATE BOARD
OF
MOTION PICTURE CENSORS**

1943 - 1944



BENJAMIN HANCE
Chairman

ANNIE E. ELLIOTT
Vice-Chairman and Treasurer

HELEN C. TINGLEY
Secretary

HELEN L. ODOM
Chief Clerk



OFFICES
848 NORTH HOWARD STREET
Baltimore -1, Maryland

HONORABLE HERBERT R. O'CONOR,
Governor of Maryland,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Governor O'Conor:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 9 of Chapter 390 of the Acts of 1922 of the General Assembly of Maryland, the Maryland State Board of Motion Picture Censors hereby presents its Twenty-Eighth Annual Report.

Your attention is directed to the work of the Board for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1943, and ending June 30, 1944, with an itemized statement of the receipts and disbursements of the department for that period.

General Statement

The Board is present at its office, 848 North Howard Street, Baltimore, Maryland, daily to review films to be exhibited in the State and to direct the work entrusted to it by law. At least once each week it has a meeting when all matters incident to the operation of the office are given earnest consideration and its decisions are recorded in the minutes.

There were 1,993 original motion picture films reviewed and 15,244 duplicate prints of films licensed during the fiscal year for which this report is submitted. Of these films, 594 were original features and 1,399 original short subjects, newsreels and cartoons. No films were rejected in toto, but 84 eliminations were made on statutory grounds. Only 28 foreign-made films were submitted for review and licensing; and, as usual, the Foreign Language Committees rendered indispensable service in the examinations of these subjects. The number of films known as "soundies" presented for review was 118, and 207 duplicate prints of these were licensed.

Receipts and Disbursements

The production of commercial films has decreased due to the use of film by governmental agencies, which reduced the original number of subjects presented for review. However, the

number of duplicate prints licensed has increased, which offset the loss of revenue from original films. The receipts for the year were \$55,585.00 and the expenditures of this office were \$35,112.59, leaving a balance of \$20,472.41 returned to the Treasury of the State as net income from the Board.

Work of the Board

The following is a statement of the grounds upon which eliminations were ordered:

Inhuman, tending to corrupt morals or incite to crime	29
Indecent and immoral, tending to corrupt morals or incite to crime	55
Total.....	84

The statutory provisions which define the above classifications further determine the process by which eliminations are made. When an elimination is ordered in either a scene or dialogue submitted for the review of the Board, the applicant submitting such film is given immediate notice. If a reexamination is requested, the applicant is invited to review the film in the presence of the Board and the final decision is then rendered. The right of appeal to the Baltimore City Court is provided if the applicant is not satisfied to revise the film to meet the requirements imposed.

The Board enjoys cooperation with the industry to the extent that producers will often voluntarily withdraw films containing scenes to which objections were made and then resubmit reconstructed prints for final approval. This obviates formal records of eliminations and the resultant quality of the film is found to be completely satisfactory.

In addition to reviewing films and dialogues, an analysis card is made of each feature picture. The information thereon contains, besides a synopsis of the story, special data as to scenes showing brutality, excessive drinking, or irregular marital relationships. This information is available to the public upon inquiry, the Board in this way assisting parents who wish to select pictures suitable for children.

While the war continues, scenes of cruelty and brutality will be found in realistic war dramas. However, no drama contains more graphic horror than the government-sponsored documentaries and newsreels. Until there is a change of national policy, local objection to such material is untenable.

Recommendation

We reiterate the recommendation made in our last report that the time required for presenting our annual report to the Governor be changed by legislative action to conform to the present fiscal year of our State.

A statistical analysis of the work of the Board and summary of its receipts and disbursements is hereto annexed.

Respectfully submitted,

BENJAMIN HANCE, *Chairman*

ANNIE E. ELLIOTT, *Vice-Chairman*

HELEN C. TINGLEY, *Secretary*

December 1, 1944.

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1944

Receipts

Fees:

Original Reels—35 MM (5,242,691 feet)	\$11,790.00	
Original Reels—16 MM (100,767 feet) ..	476.00	
(Reversible)		\$12,266.00
Duplicate Reels—35 MM (36,722,402 ft.)	41,392.00	
Duplicate Reels—16 MM (172,530 feet)	412.00	
(Reversible)		41,804.00
Sale of Substitute Seals (1,515).....		1,515.00
		<u>\$55,585.00</u>
Deposited to credit of State Treasurer.....		\$55,585.00

Expenses

Salaries:

Board Members	\$7,800.00
Other Employees	22,140.26
	<u>\$29,940.26</u>

Other Expenses:

Repairs	\$99.88
Light, Heat, Power and Water.....	274.57
Traveling	924.32
Communication	624.96
Printing	44.25
Contractual, Film Seals, etc.....	1,947.68
RCA - Inspection Service.....	257.40
Office Supplies	608.62
Motion Picture Machine Supplies.....	220.17
Office Equipment	110.98
Motion Picture Equipment.....	27.00
Insurance	32.50
	<u>\$5,172.33</u>

35,112.59

Budget Account (Per Comptroller)

Appropriation (1944)	\$36,137.00
Refunds (Communication, Item 206).....	15.05
(Office Equipment, Item 501).....	16.95
	<u>\$36,169.00</u>
Less Reversion to Reserve Fund.....	1,056.41
General Fund Disbursement.....	<u>\$35,112.59</u>

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS
TABLE SHOWING TOTAL ANNUAL RECEIPTS AND DISBURSE-
MENTS TOGETHER WITH THE AMOUNTS REVERTING
TO THE STATE TREASURY

October 1, 1920—June 30, 1944

	Receipts	Disbursements	Amount Reverting to State Treasury
10-1-20 to 9-30-21.....	\$ 26,488.33	\$ 19,025.26	\$ 7,463.07
10-1-21 to 9-30-22.....	26,866.90	19,842.12	7,024.78
10-1-22 to 9-30-23.....	27,059.51	19,892.93	7,166.58
10-1-23 to 9-30-24.....	26,338.50	20,730.44	5,608.06
10-1-24 to 9-30-25.....	29,249.50	22,207.24	7,042.26
10-1-25 to 9-30-26.....	30,207.92	22,662.82	7,545.10
10-1-26 to 9-30-27.....	32,498.55	24,883.80	7,614.75
10-1-27 to 9-30-28.....	38,165.57	27,734.69	10,430.88
10-1-28 to 9-30-29.....	44,486.27	32,937.76	11,548.51
10-1-29 to 9-30-30.....	38,954.98	31,718.26	7,236.72
10-1-30 to 9-30-31.....	35,245.85	31,816.79	3,429.06
10-1-31 to 9-30-32.....	35,637.44	32,158.81	3,478.63
10-1-32 to 9-30-33.....	35,152.34	34,207.93	944.41
10-1-33 to 9-30-34.....	36,563.00	27,174.49	9,388.51
10-1-34 to 9-30-35.....	39,463.00	27,577.76	11,885.24
10-1-35 to 9-30-36.....	44,073.00	28,927.98	15,145.02
10-1-36 to 9-30-37.....	49,293.00	28,855.10	20,437.90
10-1-37 to 9-30-38.....	48,659.00	30,197.34	18,461.66
10-1-38 to 9-30-39.....	50,180.00	30,302.92	19,877.08
10-1-39 to 9-30-40.....	53,180.00	29,598.72	23,581.28
10-1-40 to 9-30-41.....	55,877.00	30,347.18	25,529.82
10-1-41 to 9-30-42.....	55,561.00	31,135.92	24,425.08
10-1-42 to 6-30-43.....	39,828.00	22,578.29	17,249.71
7-1-43 to 6-30-44.....	55,585.00	35,112.59	20,472.41
	<u>\$954,613.66</u>	<u>\$661,627.14</u>	<u>\$292,986.52</u>

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS
REPORT OF FILMS EXAMINED

July 1, 1943—June 30, 1944

	Films Original	Films Duplicate	Reels Original	Reels Duplicate	No. of Feet Original	No. of Feet Duplicate	Films Approved	Films Rejected	Films Eliminated
July	159	1,384	497	3,879	407,510	3,201,506	1,532	0	11
August	180	1,226	570	3,475	472,930	2,860,823	1,405	0	1
September	169	1,316	565	3,731	463,028	3,095,408	1,475	0	10
October	169	1,287	560	3,785	459,142	3,128,748	1,447	0	9
November	171	1,245	707	3,604	503,485	2,983,987	1,409	0	7
December	146	1,238	469	3,408	383,718	2,790,178	1,376	0	8
January	166	1,242	126	3,673	434,550	3,016,492	1,400	0	8
February	151	1,114	543	3,480	444,086	2,899,997	1,262	0	3
March	179	1,381	471	4,298	384,502	3,545,848	1,553	0	7
April	171	1,266	497	3,844	424,057	3,175,679	1,427	0	10
May	184	1,284	646	3,614	532,621	2,980,384	1,458	0	10
June	148	1,261	529	3,815	433,829	3,215,877	1,409	0	0
Totals	1,993	15,244	6,180	44,606	5,343,458	36,894,932	17,153	0	84

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

CLASSIFICATION OF FILMS

July 1, 1943—June 30, 1944

Original and Duplicate

	Dramas	Comedies	News	Cartoons	Adver- tising	Miscel- laneous
July	339	265	836	79	2	22
August	312	264	740	63	8	19
September	343	210	811	90	3	28
October	357	197	801	65	1	35
November	340	225	779	66	4	2
December	320	180	800	75	1	8
January	322	273	702	83	6	22
February	321	195	692	46	4	7
March	376	229	863	83	1	8
April	349	245	700	124	2	17
May	313	268	775	103	4	5
June	354	179	784	75	2	15
	4,046	2,730	9,283	952	38	188

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Films, Original	1,993	.....	.....	.....
Films, Duplicate	15,244	.....	.....	.....
Reels, Original	6,180	.....	.....	.....
Reels, Suplicate	44,606	.....	.....	.....
Number of Feet, Original.....	.....	.....	5,343,458	.....
Number of Feet, Duplicate.....	.....	.....	36,894,932	.....
Films Approved .....	.....	.....	.....	17,153
Films Rejected .....	.....	.....	.....	0
Films Eliminated .....	.....	.....	.....	84
	17,237	50,786	42,238,390	17,237